

## University mourns passing of agriculture giant

Michel Proulx

**C**elebrated researcher Roy Berg, who revolutionized Alberta's beef cattle industry during a life in which he made a tremendous difference, has passed away at 85.

Roy T. Berg, a world-renowned animal geneticist and a giant in Alberta agriculture, passed away yesterday after a long illness. He was 85.

Berg revolutionized the beef cattle industry in the 1960s with his innovative research. His hybrid breeding programs led to a 30 to 40 per cent increase in production, helping make Alberta a world leader in beef production.



Roy Berg

"Roy Berg was larger than life," said John Kennelly, dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences. "As an individual, as a scientist, as an administrator at the University of Alberta, he made a tremendous difference. He was a very accomplished researcher who cared passionately about students. He was one of the best-known professors ever to work in our faculty and his impact on the agricultural sector in Alberta is unparalleled."

Berg grew up on a farm in Millicent, Alberta. One of four brothers who studied agriculture at the University of Alberta, he graduated in 1950, went on to earn an MSc and a PhD from the University

*Continued on page 2*

## One can at a time



Can-O-Man, created by Associated Engineering Alberta, won the top prize at Construction Edmonton 2012 held in the atrium of Enterprise Square. Competing teams showcase their talents by creating giant sculpture made entirely out of canned food. The displays are up until May 17. All cans will be donated to the Edmonton Food Bank.

## U of A senate elects developer as new chancellor

Folio Staff

**T**he University of Alberta Senate has elected Ralph B. Young, CEO of Melcor Developments, as its next chancellor, for a four-year term effective June 13. Young succeeds current chancellor Linda Hughes.

"The university is one of the essential building blocks of a successful and productive society. It must speak to the needs of Albertans and provide vision and leadership in achieving its aspirations," said Young.

"My commitment to education has been the most significant area of my life beyond my family and career. The U of A has been one of the most significant contributors to my life and my family's life. I have a passion for the fundamental importance of education and as chancellor I am committed to uphold and enhance the mission of

our university for the betterment of all of its stakeholders."

As noted by one of Young's nominators, "The University of Alberta and Ralph have parallel commitments to excellence in education, individual growth and development, dedication to the community, high standards of conduct, and openness to diverse and dynamic cultures and experiences. These will be strong attributes in his ability to chair the Senate to realize its mandate of community engagement and inquiry."

According to U of A President Indira Samarasekera, "Ralph Young personifies the University of Alberta promise of uplifting the whole people through knowledge. He is a pillar of the community, and his knowledge of and passion for the university will make him a powerful advocate. I am delighted at his election and look forward to working with him in my role as vice-chancellor."



Ralph Young is the University of Alberta's next chancellor, for a four-year term effective June 13.

Young's involvement with and support of the U of A has both breadth and depth, beginning in his MBA days as a teaching assistant and president of the MBA Association. He has served the university in many capacities since:

- Alumni Council School of Business representative
- Board of Governors Alumni Council representative
- University Senate Alumni Council representative

*Continued on page 3*

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
CONFERENCE SERVICES

## MEETING SPACE ON CAMPUS

BOOK TODAY! | [conference.ualberta.ca](http://conference.ualberta.ca) | 780-492-6057



# folio

## Volume 49 Issue 18

Office of the Vice-President  
(University Relations)  
Marketing and Communications  
6th Floor, General Services Building  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1

### Editor

Michael Brown  
michael.brown@ualberta.ca

### Contributors

Bryan Alary, Bev Betkowski, Michael Brown, Michael Davies-Venn, Jamie Hanlon, Salena Kitteringham, Raquel Maurier, Geoff McMaster, Brian Murphy, Quinn Phillips, Yolanda Poffenroth, Michel Proulx, Tarwinder Rai, Richard Siemens, John Ulan

### Graphic Design

Marketing and Communications

folio's mandate is to serve as a credible news source for the university community by communicating accurate and timely information about issues, programs, people and events and by serving as a forum for discussion and debate. folio is published 23 times per year.

The editor reserves the right to limit, select, edit and position submitted copy and advertisements. Views expressed in folio do not necessarily reflect university policy. folio contents may be printed with acknowledgement.

### Inquiries

Comments and letters should be directed to Michael Brown, editor, 780-492-9407  
michael.brown@ualberta.ca

### Corporate & Display Advertising

Deadline: Thursday, noon, one week prior to publication  
Debbie Keehn, 780-492-2325  
folioads@ualberta.ca

### Classified Ads

Deadline: Thursday, noon, one week prior to publication  
Debbie Keehn, 780-492-2325  
folioads@ualberta.ca

### Talks and Events

Deadline: Thursday, noon, one week prior to publication

Enter events online at  
www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/  
submit.cfm

### Circulation/Change of Address

Contact Debbie Keehn at  
780-492-2325 or via e-mail at  
debbie.keehn@ualberta.ca

### Billing Info

Contact Fatima Jaffer at  
780-492-0448 or via e-mail at  
fatima.jaffer@ualberta.ca

ISSN 0015-5764 Copyright 2011



The University of Alberta maintains a database of all alumni. This database is used to send you news about the U of A, including folio and New Trail, invitations to special events and requests for support. On Sept. 1, 1999, post-secondary institutions were required to comply with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation of the province of Alberta. In accordance with this legislation, please respond to one of the following options:

- ☐ Please keep my name, or
- ☐ Remove my name from the folio list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
No response means the University of Alberta assumes an individual wishes to remain on the mailing list.

# Writing the book on early literacy leads to award

Michael Brown

By all measures, Linda Phillips has achieved outstanding distinction in her area of research and scholarship, teaching, and has earned favourable regard from the community.

That description of Phillips's renowned career as a professor in the Department of Elementary Education and director of the Canadian Centre for Research on Literacy also happens to be the exact list of qualifications for perhaps the most prestigious of her titles, University of Alberta Centennial Professor.

"I am delighted that the administration of the Faculty of Education and the senior administration provided support and an environment to carry on the many projects that gained world-wide attention," said Phillips. "The research, teaching and service opportunities at the University of Alberta are limited only by one's initiative.

"I suppose you could say the university presented opportunities and I grasped them."

Phillips's research represents a sustained, systematic and cumulative inquiry into the cognition of reading, specifically how people come to construct meaning from print text and how their competence can be improved.

Her research on children's reasoning when they are reading was recognized internationally for innovative use of verbal protocols to study the cognitive processing of young readers. This research, published in 1988, gave the reading field the first insights into children's conscious processing while reading and is a fundamental thread in her work in reading when the content is science.

"I suppose you could say the university presented opportunities and I grasped them."

Linda Phillips

Later, Phillips and colleague Stephen Norris showed significant deficiencies in graduating high school students' ability to interpret an expressed degree of certainty of statements, the scientific status of statements and the role of statements in the chain of scientific reasoning.

"This ability is important for life-long learning of science, and ought to be taught in science education," said Phillips.

Another strand to Phillips's research is her work with children and families. It is known that what children know when they begin formal schooling can be more important than what they learn in school.

For instance, Phillips and her team found that children from homes that do not encourage learning of such concepts as story, word and print are at an immediate disadvantage, given that schools will assume they have a grasp of these concepts. Her first five-year longitudinal study, which examined the effects of a literacy intervention in kindergarten, was the first to be funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation outside of the United States.

Phillips also serves as the volunteer program developer for the parent and child programs of many family literacy centres. They have won several provincial and national awards for their programs. Another example of Phillips's tireless efforts is her concern for children at risk of failure in reading and the lack of appropriate books for them to learn. She secures funds from organizations to put books in the hands of less-fortunate children.

Further indicators of her significant achievements are the dozens of awards and distinctions for her outstanding research and scholarship. She has published more than 130 papers and 22 authored, co-authored and edited books, and presented at hundreds of academic and professional venues internationally, nationally and provincially.

Phillips has also won awards for outstanding teaching as both a school teacher and a professor at the undergraduate and graduate levels.



Linda Phillips

"Dr. Linda Phillips and her research team have undertaken innovative, cutting-edge studies involving the acquisition of reading that have been acclaimed nationally and internationally," said Fern Snart, dean of the Faculty of Education. "Linda clearly meets and exceeds the criteria for a Centennial Professor, and we are incredibly proud to have her as a colleague within education."

Despite her successes, Phillips says she has never lost sight of the behind-the-scenes efforts that have had a direct and positive impact on her work.

"The sustained support of and interest in my work by my dean, Fern Snart, the provost, Carl Amrhein, and the vice-president (research), Lorne Babiuk, has been steadfast and thus made it possible for me to soar to new and unexpected heights." ■

## Ranching researcher's legacy can still be felt today

Continued from page 1

of Minnesota, and returned to the U of A as an assistant professor in 1955.

Together with L.W. McElroy, head of the department of animal science, he sought and received funding from the provincial government, through the Horned Cattle Trust Account, to build a beef cattle breeding facility. They found the ideal ranch in Kinsella, two hours east of Edmonton.

He sought to improve fertility in females and growth in males, according to Mick Price, a fellow U of A academic and longtime collaborator. Specifically, he wanted to show that selective crossbreeding of beef cattle—passing on desirable traits from a variety of breeds—could improve production.

His research proved very controversial because the prevailing wisdom in the beef cattle industry at the time was to use purebred cattle. "There were tremendously strong feelings about it," explained Price. "Ranchers thought that by crossbreeding, we would ruin the herds. They used the word 'mongrelized.' They thought that once you mongrelized the breed, you'd never get back the beauty

that was the Alberta herd and everybody would be ruined."

Despite the ferocious opposition, Berg persisted and developed Kinsella Ranch into one of the most successful cattle breeding research operations in the world. He bred two hybrid lines, according to Price. The first was 30 per cent more productive; the second was 40 per cent more productive.

"Roy Berg was larger than life."

John Kennelly

Berg's crossbreeding techniques have since become the norm in the beef cattle industry. Driving along Alberta highways, a traveller would be hard pressed today to find a purebred herd grazing in a pasture or on a farm.

And yet, in a 1999 *Folio* story for which Berg was interviewed, he said his greatest impact on Alberta agriculture was in the classroom, where

he pushed his students to conduct their own research and think independently. He didn't believe in giving lectures. Rather, he'd have the students give seminars.

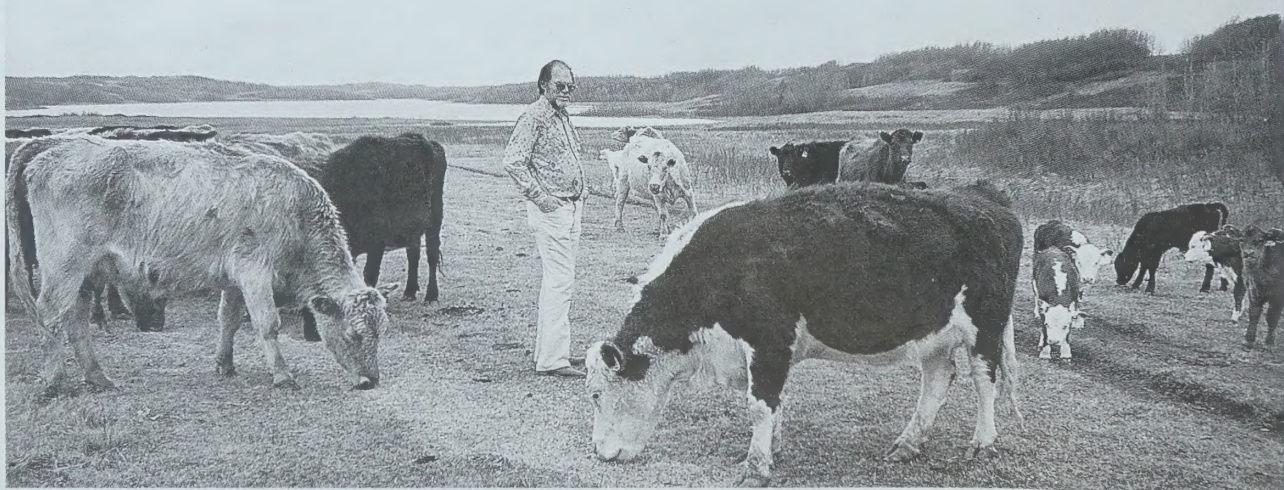
"He was very, very concerned with teaching," said Price.

"He would become very cross if you ever talked about training students. We educated students. We didn't train them."

In 1977, Berg served a term as chair of the Department of Animal Science before serving a term as dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry.

Throughout his career, he won numerous awards including, among many others, induction into the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame and the International Stockman's Hall of Fame in 1989, an honorary degree from the University of Guelph in 1991, the U of A Alumni Honour Award in 2002 and the Alberta Centennial Medal in 2005.

He is survived by his wife Margaret and four children, Ruth, Paula, Kevin and Nora, as well as five grandchildren. ■



Roy Berg at the Kinsella Ranch.



# Stained-glass window allows fond look back at a job well done

Michael Brown

As far as Frank Robinson is concerned, one volunteer job well done deserves another.

So, when the dean of students was approached by members of the University of Alberta Senate to create a stained-glass window as a parting gift for the outgoing chancellor Linda Hughes, whose four-year term ends June 13, he was only too happy to oblige.

"I think she did a fantastic job as chancellor," said Robinson. "She really knows what the university is all about and I think dealt with student issues in an amazing way for someone who was a volunteer."

Robinson, whose perpetually bandaged hands are a testament to how seriously he takes his hobby, says he can pour 50 hours or more into a stained-glass window, and the chancellor's was no exception.

"I've been doing it for six years and in that time I've probably made 20 or so, but this is the most official one I've ever had to make," said Robinson.

In approaching the task, Robinson employed a design made famous in stained-glass circles by

the noted American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

**"Linda Hughes really knows what the university is all about and I think dealt with student issues in an amazing way for someone who was a volunteer."**

Frank Robinson

Robinson says Wright was an early-20th-century, prairie-style architect whose design elements laid the foundation for the modern home. Those elements didn't end at the curb; Wright was known to design everything down to the carpet, the furnishings and even the windows. "The windows weren't clear glass, rather something Wright called 'art glass,' and all the windows in the house would carry the same design elements."

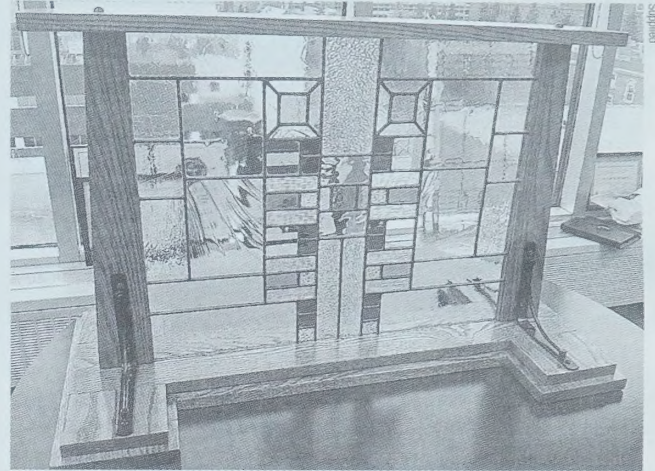
Out of Wright's vast collection of art-glass designs, Robinson decided on one featured in the Avery Coonley House constructed in Riverside, Illinois in 1908, the same year the U of A began offering classes.

Robinson says he modified the design to include 19 coloured pieces of green and gold glass representing both the official colours of the U of A and the fact that Hughes was the 19th chancellor.

"Then I thought, 'wouldn't it be cool if I used some old glass,' so I contacted Facilities and Operations and they found two pieces of antique glass," said Robinson. "One was from a door in dent-pharm—non-see-through glass, very heavily textured—and the other piece was out of a house in Garneau that is still standing, but not for long as it is where a new residence is going to go."

In the end, Robinson came up with an 18-by-24-inch masterpiece that uses 60 pieces of glass, some old, some new.

"I liked the historical elements in the window," said Robinson. "Besides, I thoroughly enjoyed making the window for Linda and it was the least I could do." ■



Dean of students Frank Robinson created this 18-by-24-inch stained-glass window for outgoing chancellor Linda Hughes.

## Sustainability leader driving change on campus

Michael Brown

When you're an enabler for an emerging community leader, change comes fast.

Such has been the experience for Candice Tremblay, who been one of the driving forces behind the push by the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus in becoming both a post-secondary and community leader of environmental change.

"I think that as an educational institution, we have to be leaders in the community, particularly in sustainability," said Augustana's sustainability co-ordinator and first-ever recipient of the U of A Campus Sustainability Leadership Award handed out April 20. "Working with the university allows us to be innovative and make environmental changes that we hope other institutions and our community can replicate."

Ever since she served as student representative on the Green Campus Committee in 2007, Tremblay has worked to incorporate sustainability at Augustana Campus into teaching, community outreach, research and operations.

Among the initiatives Tremblay is involved in are providing mentorship for Augustana's Earthwise environmental club, facilitating the campus's sustainable food policy initiative, researching and guiding sustainability policy changes, assisting with the logistical aspects of a signature solar panel project at Augustana, growing sustainability-related placements with Community Service-Learning, and extending sustainability into the broader Camrose community.

"We have seen great changes at Augustana in the area of sustain-

## staff spotlight



Candice Tremblay won the first-ever Campus Sustainability Leadership Award.

ability over the last number of years," said Tremblay. "The tremendous support, innovation and hard work of students, staff and faculty from all disciplines and departments has been a huge reason we have been so successful."

Tremblay says none of it would be possible without forward-thinking leadership and unwavering buy-in from the student body, which includes upwards of 50 community service-learning students working on a host of sustainability projects, from water conservation on campus and in the larger community to anti-idling initiatives.

"These students conduct research, plan and host events, and co-ordinate outreach and action campaigns on a variety of environmental issues," she said. "This effort has certainly influenced

a culture of sustainability at the Augustana Campus."

Although the impact of sustainability is often unmeasurable, Augustana has seen an impressive 53 per cent reduction in waste going to the landfill since 2010.

"This is largely due to our single-stream recycling system, bottle collection system, and education and awareness campaigns, as well as the wonderful work our students and staff do every day," said Tremblay. "One of the greatest things about my job is getting to work with so many passionate people who want to make a difference."

"Being on a small campus allows us to work hand in hand with a lot of people who can make the change. I love working with people who want to make change and can see it happen." ■

## New chancellor to advocate for U of A

*Continued from page 1*

- Donor related to business and Canadian history interests
- School of Business: Alumni Association, Faculty Advisory Council, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Family Enterprise, Alberta Business Family Institute, Business Advisory Council
- President of the Alumni Association

A native of Saskatoon who has lived in Edmonton with his wife, Gay, since 1969 for all but two years, Young is a longtime active supporter of several local and regional organizations and causes beyond the U of A. He has served on the boards of directors or key committees for arts, health, sport, civic, professional, church and education organizations. Among them are the Edmonton Symphony Society, Citadel Theatre, Alberta Innovates Health Solutions, Edmonton Eskimos, APEGA, Chamber of Commerce, Grant MacEwan, NAIT, and Telus Community Board.

**"The university is one of the essential building blocks of a successful and productive society. It must speak to the needs of Albertans and provide vision and leadership in achieving its aspirations."**

Ralph Young

The chancellor serves as the honorary head of the university, chairs the university Senate, serves as a member of the board of governors, represents the university at all ceremonial occasions and presides over convocation to confer all degrees. The chancellor is a volunteer and acts as a liaison with the community. The Senate is an independent, 62-member advisory body of community leaders that examines, fosters and celebrates the achievements and excellence of the university.

Young earned his MBA from the U of A (1973), BSc in civil engineering from University of Saskatchewan (1967) and executive training from Queen's University (1996).

Lieutenant Governor Donald Ethell will install Young as chancellor at the 3 p.m. convocation ceremony June 13 in the Northern Jubilee Auditorium. In keeping with tradition, Young will give the keynote address as the newly installed chancellor. ■

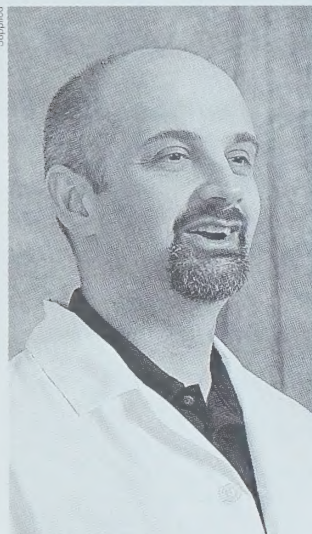
**folio**  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
on the Web  
[www.folio.ualberta.ca](http://www.folio.ualberta.ca)



# Technology funding looks to turn waste into opportunity

Bev Betkowski

Technology developed by University of Alberta researcher David Bressler to convert agricultural waste into useful products is getting a boost from the federal government.



U of A researcher David Bressler has developed leading-edge technology to convert agricultural waste into useful products.

Western Economic Diversification Canada announced a \$970,000 investment May 4, towards establishing a pilot industrial plant at the U of A's Agri-Food Discovery Place. Once it is refined and tested, the technology could lead to the establishment of an Alberta-based industrial plant and U of A spinoff company.

A grant from the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency is also helping to support the initiative.

The leading-edge research, called Lipid to Hydrocarbon technology, was developed over

the past several years by Bressler, an associate professor in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, and his team. The technology can convert waste like animal fats—such as tallow from the beef industry—as well as vegetable oils, oil from plant algae and restaurant grease, to high-value byproducts such as hydrocarbon fuels, solvents and chemicals.

These end products take the form of jet fuel, gasoline and solvents for use in the crop, oil and gas industries. As well, one of the solvents developed in Bressler's lab would be the first of its kind used in the cosmetics industry. A spinoff company would produce and supply these products to various industries for commercial applications.

The project has taken biodiesel to the next level, Bressler said.

"This research is a great example of technology that was developed from scratch at the U of A and, if successful, has a chance to make biodiesel obsolete."

Bressler's patented conversion process results in fuels that are more environmentally friendly because they perform better, burn more cleanly and have lower emissions.

Partnerships with agencies such as Western Economic Diversification Canada have been crucial in getting the technology to its current successful state, Bressler noted.

"It's been a long road, and we've been supported all the way by industry and funding agencies, including Western Economic Diversification Canada, the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions and the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute."

Besides producing exciting new technology and economic opportunities, the research project also benefited budding U of A scientists, said Bressler, noting that several

graduate students, a post-doctoral student and a research associate were all trained through the ongoing work. Several scientific papers were also published along the way.

Bressler is pleased to see U of A research like his breaking barriers and moving into the marketplace. "We want to take the discovery process as far as it can go." ■

## Network readies UAlberta for a biofuel revolution

Michael Brown

*If there are aspects to UAlberta that you don't understand, chances are you're not alone. The university can be a complicated entity with many moving parts. University 101 was created to assist the campus community in better understanding who does what and how things get done at the university.*

In a concerted effort to become the nexus where traditional resource riches and expertise meets the energy future of biofuels, the University of Alberta, with the full support of the Alberta government, has created an organization designed to marry provincial research communities and industry in the areas of biorefining and biomass conversion technologies to achieve outcomes that can be commercialized.

Launched in 2009 with a \$3-million grant from Advanced Education and Technology through the Alberta Innovates Biosolutions Corporation, the Biorefining Conversions Network came into being as a way to build teams that could work with industry and build bigger partnerships in that space.

"Instead of having academics across the province competing, you would have them work together with their disciplines to create a package that would be interesting to industry to collaborate with," said David Bressler, the BCN's director and founder. "While it is based and founded at U of A, it has a Campus Alberta mandate and is actively working on collaborations with NAIT, Olds College, the University of Calgary and Alberta Innovates Technologies Futures."

Bressler was selected to head up this group in part because of his groundbreaking research into biomass transformation into fuels and chemicals, but also because of his ability "to speak a few different academic languages—and I tend to be fairly applied in nature."

"So the network started basically with a guy who had a lot of contacts in engineering and a lot of contacts in science, and could collaborate across a lot of disciplines."

Bressler says at its core, the network is about working with the traditional energy sectors to find a way to bridge them and find ways to use renewable feedstock to make the chemicals and materials we need for society going forward.

"In a way, it is about finding and supporting economic development and diversification better," he said. "We are not looking to improve things, we are looking to radically create new markets and new opportunities that are all green, are sustainable and help support the backbone of the economy here in Alberta."

In just three short years, the network has calved 16 projects to go with a number of patents, papers and even the prospects of companies being born. But Bressler says that is just one of the benefits of the BCN. He adds the U of A is in a unique position globally to take a leadership role here.

"We have all the faculties needed right here and they all have links to each other," said Bressler. "Being in Alberta, we at the U of A understand the resource sectors better than a lot of other jurisdictions and understand how to best interface in a compatible way."

Besides researching biofuels, Bressler says, the network has branches in adding value to agriculture and forestry as well as researchers involved who are exploring ways of greening the oilsands. He adds the Biorefining Conversions Network is also involved in creating networks across Canada, North America and the world.

"India, Japan, Germany—everyone is looking at Alberta as a hub to link to right now," said Bressler. "We are at the beginning of almost an entire revolution on how our economy is shaped."

"[The technologies that come out of entities like the Biorefining Conversions Network] are going to redefine everything. It is of the scale, I believe, of an industrial revolution, and we have just started into it—it's huge." ■

## Lessons still being learned from 2,000-year-old story

Salena Kitteringham

Two millennia ago, Euripides' telling of the classical myth of Jason and Medea, about a woman so enraged with her husband that she kills her own children, shook the moral foundations of Athens. Today, news headlines echo similar storylines, proving that time has not softened the tale's tragic impact.

"I am pretty passionate about contemporary stories, and then I realized that this is still a very contemporary story," said Donna Marie Baratta, director of the University of Alberta Studio Theatre production of *Medea*. The Timms main-stage production is an adaptation by playwright Larry Fineberg, opening May 17 in fulfilment of Baratta's MFA directing thesis.

Baratta admits she had wanted to sink her directing chops into *Medea* since she saw Seana McKenna's incarnation at the Stratford Festival in 2000, but had never felt up to the challenge of working with Greek text or the heightened language until she could draw on the expertise available at the U of A during her directing studies.

"*Medea* has some wonderful speeches to work with, no doubt. This is a perfect time to take it on because I have a beautiful team of great collaborators and I feel supported to really do something where I am out of my comfort zone," she said.

Baratta has managed to assemble a bold cast of exciting actors, many of them U of A acting graduates or current students. In the lead role of Medea, Baratta cast her MFA directing cohort, Jessica Carmichael.

"She has a passion, she has a fire, she is smart and she is an extraordinary actress," Baratta said of Carmichael. "I'm just thrilled she said yes to spend this time, and it's precious time when you're already doing your MFA in the first place, to devote eight hours a day for six weeks to my rehearsals. That's an intense commitment."

Together, sifting through the complexities of how and why Medea could kill her own sons has been at the heart of the rehearsal process. "Medea really is so in love that the loss of Jason to another woman is tragic. She truly has nothing in the end and realizes through her conversation with Aegeus, the king of Athens, who desperately wants a son, that killing off Jason's legacy is the only sure way she can decimate him the way she has been decimated.... I think it is really sad that she goes that way but I don't think, in *Medea*'s case, that it's madness. As the nurse tells her in the play, we have a choice not to do violent deeds. It is certainly the main thing to grapple with as a cast."

As a kid, Baratta was drawn to musical theatre and dance, and went on to perform professionally as a young adult before completing

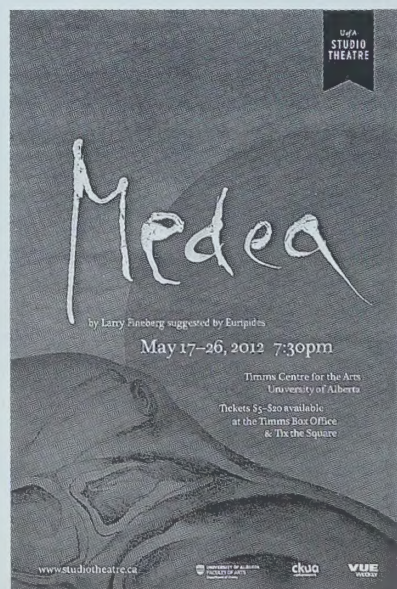
her education degree in Ontario. She taught in Toronto over the past 10 years, but felt a big piece of her was missing without much time to engage in her passion for the stage. She says pursuing an MFA in directing was always in the back of her mind.

"I was looking for a new challenge and the University of Alberta certainly has the best reputation in Canada [for directing]. I was over the moon, ecstatic when I got in."

She says the intensive two-year program has been a demanding learning experience right from the rigorous application process, which includes submitting a directorial preparation on a play from a selected list, and an accompanying video of what your first rehearsal address would be to your cast and crew if you were to direct it.

For her thesis, Baratta is relishing the chance to integrate her background in dance with the new skills she's harnessed throughout her studies in directing. She says her choice to add five *Medea* variations to this production was to represent Medea's divided self, to shadow movement, express her internal struggle, and give her support and protection. Together the *Medea* variations represent a complete woman.

"In *Medea*'s isolation and oppression, she can gain strength from her five variations, her inner core, but when she leaves Corinth she is forever broken. Love and loss are intertwined."



*Medea* previews May 16 and runs May 17 through May 26 at 7:30 p.m., with no show Sunday. Matinee performance May 24 at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for \$10 to \$20 at TIX on the Square (780-420-1757), online at [www.tixonthesquare.ca](http://www.tixonthesquare.ca) or in person at the Timms Centre box office the week of opening, throughout the play's run and one hour before each performance. ■



## Improving health for those with spinal cord injuries

Bryan Alary

People with spinal cord injuries and reduced mobility now have access to specialized exercise equipment in an inclusive community setting, thanks to a partnership between the University of Alberta and the Spinal Cord Injury Treatment Centre (Northern Alberta) Society.

Two new functional electrical stimulation (FES) rehabilitation therapy machines are now available at the Saville Community Sports Centre, operated by the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the U of A. FES is a form of exercise for people with spinal cord injuries, stroke and other neuromuscular disorders that involves sending electrical currents to paralyzed or weakened muscles so they contract to restore some degree of functional movement.

The new FES equipment and staffing support was provided by the Spinal Cord Injury Treatment Centre (Northern Alberta) Society.

One of the machines, called the RT 200 elliptical, allows users to exercise their arms and legs at the same time—a rarity among such equipment in Canada.

"Through the incredible support of partners like the Spinal Cord Injury Treatment Centre (Northern Alberta) Society, the U of A has established itself as a leader in adapted physical activity rehabilitation in Canada," said Karen Slater, associate director of the Steadward Centre for Personal & Physical Achievement, which runs the community FES transition program in collaboration with the society and Saville Community Sports Centre.

"This partnership allows us to bring in technology that no one else is using in a community setting in Canada," said Slater.

The value of independence and inclusivity cannot be underestimated given that many FES machines are located in hospitals and rehabilitation settings, said Louise Miller, president of the Spinal Cord Injury Treatment Centre (Northern

Alberta) Society, who co-founded the not-for-profit society in 1987, a few years after life-saving surgery left her with paraplegia.

"This allows people to go to a fitness centre where everybody else is working out. You can go and exercise next to your friend or family member. You can go when you want," said Miller.

In 1991, the society purchased western Canada's first FES system, which was donated to the Steadward Centre. In total, the treatment centre society has provided about \$425,000 for staff support and equipment that help people with spinal injuries.

One of those people is Shauna Paisley Cooper. The Stony Plain resident was an athlete and outdoor enthusiast until a mountain-biking accident four years ago left her with C6 quadriplegia—paralyzed from the chest down with limited movement in her arms.

FES has helped Paisley Cooper stay healthy and active.

"The electrical stimulation is fascinating, that it does make my legs



Shauna Paisley Cooper (left) discusses the new FES machines with Louise Miller.

move. It's increased my circulation so I don't have to wear compression socks, and I've seen increased tone in my quadricep muscles," she said. "It feels good to be able to ride a bike again."

Being active in an inclusive environment has also improved her self-esteem. She's able to work out at the same time her girls are in gymnastics.

"We can do things together as a family in the same centre," she said. ■

## Partnership taps technology for healthier Alberta

Bryan Alary

A new partnership between the University of Alberta and Telus that aims to advance consumer health-care technologies will help Albertans tap into their health data and lead healthier lives.

Telus, the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine and the Health Sciences Council at the U of A today announced the launch of the Consumer Health Technology Living Laboratory Community, a research platform geared toward developing and commercializing innovative health technologies. Telus has committed \$1.3 million over three years to the initiative, along with in-kind technology and staff support.

"This is an important collaboration between the University of Alberta and Telus that will significantly advance the development of new technologies in the community so people—particularly seniors—can remain independent and healthy," said Martin Ferguson-Pell, dean of rehabilitation medicine.

The Living Laboratory Community will promote research into consumer technologies that allow patients to monitor their health and let them decide who can remotely access their medical information.

One such technology is Telus's health space, an ehealth service that uses Microsoft's HealthVault, enabling patients to collect, store and analyze their health information anytime, from any location.

Health space allows users to upload details like their current weight or any medications they are taking, and

then decide who can have access to the information—be it physicians, family members or other care providers. That kind of patient- and family-centred access is not possible with current clinically based electronic medical records, said Ferguson-Pell. With modifications, the technology will make it possible for a family member to monitor a loved one's sudden weight gain or other health status indicators.

The remote capabilities mean health information can be accessed and updated by a patient, family member or health-care provider whether they live in the same city or across the globe. "Particularly when you're talking about rural communities, these technologies offer potentially a substantial resource savings," said Ferguson-Pell.

The partnership advances a Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine demonstration project called "Smart Condo" that used technology to simulate home conditions and explore how sensor systems can be used to monitor patient health. The concept was extended to the Living Laboratory Community to embrace the complexity of real-life situations involving patients, families and caregivers in the community.

Last year, the U of A, Telus and TR Labs successfully tested health space in a small blood glucose trial at a primary care network in Sherwood Park. They'll look to build upon the scope of this technology by expanding to sites in Camrose and Calgary, Ferguson-Pell said. "Alberta can be a national and international leader in this area and at the same time address a major societal pressure the entire developing world is facing." ■

## Donors set new bar in giving

Bryan Alary

Donors are giving to the University of Alberta in record numbers thanks to a surge in first-time donations.

Some 21,700 individuals, foundations and corporations donated to the university in 2011-12, including 5,700 first-time donors. That forward momentum shows the university's mission is resonating with an unprecedented number who see the value of post-secondary education, said President Indira Samarasekera.

"This remarkable outpouring of support for the University of Alberta is a vote of confidence in our mission to create and sustain a vibrant and supportive learning environment for our students, faculty and staff," said Samarasekera. "It is a credit to our talented people who are passionately committed to learning, discovery and citizenship and connecting our university to the global community."

A total of \$162.7 million in philanthropic support was recorded this fiscal year—an all-time high in the university's history. Gifts came from a record number of nearly 20,000 alumni and individual donors.

The university also benefited from a substantial increase in donations from the 12,800 alumni who gave, representing a five-year high.

Chief advancement officer O'Neil Outar said the growth in support corresponds with a surge in demand among alumni who are staying connected to the university through events and programs, and by joining a thriving online community through social media, the UAlberta Email for Life program and other channels.

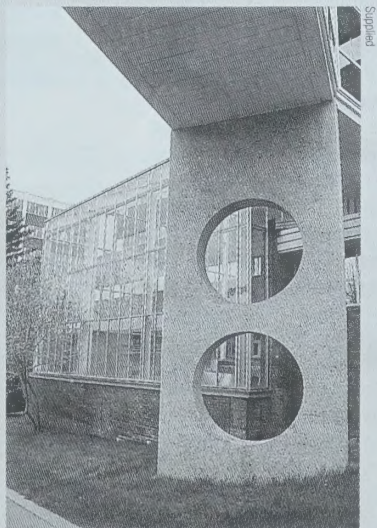
"We're finding our alumni want to be more involved, want to know about events happening in their community," he said. "We're doing more alumni activities here and outside of Canada, from Hong Kong and Singapore, to London, to New York and San Francisco. Our alumni have responded in impressive fashion."

The surge in donations comes at a time of economic challenges that have placed pressures on the university's budget. These new dollars will be used to provide scholarships, bursaries and funding support for faculty, staff and innovative university programs that foster creativity and discovery and make a difference in people's lives, Outar said.

"It provides a catalyst to innovation, a catalyst for change, a catalyst for ideas—and it helps provide a sense of community," he said. "Donors allow the University of Alberta to continue to position itself among leading universities in Canada and the world." ■

## Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Al Kalantar, whose name was drawn as part of Folio's April 27 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Kalantar correctly identified the call box in last week's photo as being located in the northeast corner of The Quad, just outside the southeast entrance of CCIS. For his efforts, Kalantar has won a copy of "Pursuing China: Memoir of a Beaver Liaison Officer" by Brian Evans. Up for grabs this week is a U of A sweater courtesy of the U of A bookstore. To win, simply identify where the object pictured is located and email your answer to folio@ualberta.ca by noon on Monday, May 20, and you will be entered into the draw.



### Strathcona Foot & Ankle Clinic

Dr. A Kruszelnicki, DPM  
Dr. J. Prosen, DPM

- Custom Orthotics
- Sports Medicine & Injuries
- Bunions & Hammertoes
- Heel & Arch Pain
- Diabetic Foot Care
- Plantar Warts
- Ingrown or Fungal Toenails

No Referral Necessary  
Strathcona Health Centre  
8225 - 105 Street, Suite 210

780-430-1869



# Prehistoric ocean predator makes new splash in its gene pool

Brian Murphy

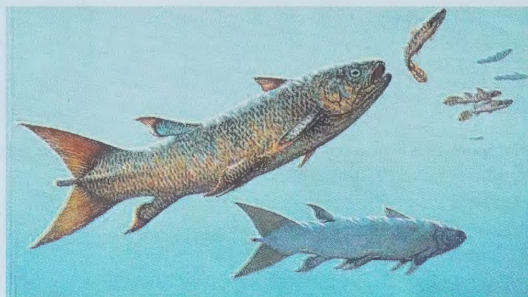
Coelacanths, an ancient group of fishes that were once thought to exist only in fossils, made headlines in 1938 when one of their modern relatives was pulled alive from the ocean. Now coelacanths are making another splash—and University of Alberta researchers are responsible for the discovery.

Lead U of A researcher Andrew Wendruff identified coelacanth fossils that he says are so dramatically different from previous finds, they shatter the theory that coelacanth evolution was stagnant in that their body shape and lifestyle changed little since the origin of the group.

Wendruff says his one-metre-long, fork-tailed coelacanth was one of an “offshoot” lineage that lived 240 million years ago. It falls between the earliest coelacanth fossils dating back 410 million years and the latest fossils dated about 75 million years ago, near the end of the age of dinosaurs.

“Our coelacanth had a forked tail, indicating it was a fast-moving, aggressive predator, which is very different from the shape and movement of all other coelacanths in the fossil record,” said Wendruff.

The researchers say all other ancient coelacanth fossils, and even the modern living coelacanths, have very different bodies.



U of A researchers have identified a fork-tailed coelacanth that lived about 240 million years ago. Artwork: Michael Skrepnick

The first modern coelacanth, or “living fossil,” was captured 74 years ago off the coast of South Africa. Since then, others have been caught in southern oceans near the Comoros Islands, Tanzania and Indonesia.

The fork-tailed fossils described by the U of A team were found in the Rocky Mountains near Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia. Wendruff’s research co-author, U of A professor emeritus Mark Wilson, says the eastern range of the Rockies 240 million years ago was a very different place from what it is today. “The area was underwater, lying off the western coast of the supercontinent Pangaea.”

Wilson describes typical coelacanths as having chunky bodies, fins of varying size and broad, flexible tails. “These fish were slow-moving and probably lay in wait for their prey,” he said.

Wendruff’s coelacanth is so different from all others that it’s been given its own name, *Rebellatrix*, which means “rebel coelacanth.” The researchers say *Rebellatrix* came along after the end-Permian mass extinction 250 million years ago, an event so lethal it wiped out 90 per cent of marine life.

*Rebellatrix* filled a previously occupied predator niche, but it didn’t fare well.

“*Rebellatrix* was likely a spectacular failure in the evolution of cruising predation,” said Wendruff. “Clearly, some other fish groups with forked tails must have outperformed this coelacanth, as it does not appear later in the fossil record.” Wilson notes that one group of fishes that may have outperformed *Rebellatrix* were sharks, fossils of which were found in the same rocks.

The research by Wendruff and Wilson was published May 2 as the cover article in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. ■

“*Rebellatrix* was likely a spectacular failure in the evolution of cruising predation.”

Andrew Wendruff

# Blind photographers find a vision of their own through cameras

Bev Betkowski

Denise Hambly can’t really see the photographs she’s taken, but that doesn’t quell her excitement for their beauty.

Legally blind since the age of 24, Hambly, who has macular degeneration, doesn’t consider creativity the sole domain of sighted people.

“There is real value in the idea that if we all have a creative bent, our artistic ability isn’t in our hands or eyes, it is in our brains and it is up to us to interpret what is around us and give it to other people.”

Hambly and nine other blind or partially sighted amateur photographers from across Alberta, Canada and the world, have done just that in an exhibit that opened

at Rutherford Library South May 3. In Focus, a collection of 60 works, shares snapshots taken by the group of the everyday world around them.

The exhibit kicked off a one-day symposium, *Materiality and Independence*, hosted by the U of A’s Material Culture Institute May 4, exploring the environment of people with disabilities, issues of independence and the ways they engage with material objects.

The show features interpretation of public and private spaces through the perspectives of blind and partially sighted citizens.

“In Focus is about putting a different lens on the built environment,” said Megan Strickfaden, an assistant professor in the Department of Human Ecology.

Strickfaden put out a call for photographs through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), asking the group’s clients for perspectives on urban spaces, including buildings, parks, streets, rooms and objects.

“Lighting and contrast are significant for someone who has vision loss, so the way the camera is targeted is quite different,” Strickfaden said. “Sighted people will be really surprised at the quality of the photos, at the use of symmetry and playfulness.”

Kayla Whitney, a U of A arts student, has four photographs in the show, displaying a winsome personal side (a beloved jewelry tree holding her treasures) and her perspective of being partially sighted (an extreme close-up of a soup can to read the label).

Whitney, 22, is legally blind, but she considers herself fortunate that her sight, though blurry, does allow her to see light, contrast, shapes and colours. She used a digital camera and a simple point-and-shoot method to capture her shots. Though she prefers creative writing or knitting as an outlet, she didn’t want to pass up the chance to try photography for the show.

“Because we are visually impaired, we do see the world differently. We walk down the street



Kayla Whitney, an arts student at UAlberta, is sharing her perspective in a new exhibit of snapshots by blind and partially sighted photographers.

differently, or take longer to read school material. I hope people realize there are different viewpoints, different options, that the world is not necessarily just the way they see it.”

“There is real value in the idea that if we all have a creative bent, our artistic ability isn’t in our hands or eyes, it is in our brains and it is up to us to interpret what is around us and give it to other people.”

Denise Hambly

Hambly, who works as a life skills instructor for CNIB, knew she wanted to take part in the project. “I thought, ‘I like photography and I have some pictures I’m happy with.’” Using her camera phone, iPod and a trusty camera, she gathered images in the course of daily life.

Fence lines are a particular favourite for Hambly, who has no central vision and is losing

the ability to see colours. “When I was a child we travelled to Saskatchewan a lot, so I was used to seeing a lot of lines.” One of her favourite pictures is of a wire fence she shot while on holiday in British Columbia. The fence was a work of art, embedded with wood and cast-iron pieces. “Every panel had different things.”

“One of the things I love about the photos is that they really show that lived experience, and that’s what will connect with sighted people, because they will see a similar kind of lived experience.”

In Focus also features items related to blindness, such as canes, eyeglasses and glass eyes, tools used for everyday living, both now and in the past. Articles on loan from the U of A’s collection include pointed cat-eye glasses from the 1950s and driving goggles from 1895.

Hambly hopes that the photos demonstrate that blindness is not a barrier to creativity.

“I’m hoping that those who see the show realize that people who are blind or partially sighted can do just about anything sighted people can do; they just have to do it in a different way, and that includes photography.”

In Focus runs until May 30, 2012, and can be viewed in Rutherford Library South. ■

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

2012

SPRING AND SUMMER STUDIES

SEE MORE > DO MORE > LEARN MORE >

With over 850 course listings in 16 countries, the University of Alberta gives you more ways to spend your summer than ever before.

OPEN STUDIES APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
SUMMER TERM - JUNE 30, 2012

ualberta.ca/learnmore



# Researcher finds high heels are a pain in the calf for servers

Bev Betkowski

As a lounge server, Brittany Gora spends a lot of time on her feet, and has, in her four years on the job, had some slips and spills as she carries trays to her customers. So when a class assignment about workplace hazards arose, the University of Alberta student knew just what she'd research—high-heeled shoes.

Required to wear heels for work, Gora, a fourth-year student in the Department of Human Ecology, is always a little worried about hurting herself. "I slip at least once per shift, and I wanted to see if other workers felt they were at risk."

For her research project, Gora interviewed 35 female wait staff, all of whom said they'd either slipped, tripped or fallen on the job, on average once a week. Of those, 40 per cent said they'd been injured as a result, and 93 per cent were wearing high-heeled shoes at the time. As well, 91 per cent of them reported that they

were required by their employers to wear heels on the job, but only 23 per cent received suggestions on appropriate heeled shoes to wear. None were actually supplied with the mandatory footwear.

Her findings have Gora, a 22-year-old clothing and textiles student, wondering why there aren't regulations about safe footwear—heeled or not—for servers.

"I don't understand why there isn't a standard in place. There is legislation for reflective tape on other kinds of work clothing, for instance."

Eighty per cent of the women interviewed in Gora's study said their company handbooks stated heeled footwear is a must for work, with 40 per cent wearing heels that were lower than two inches, and 54 per cent wearing heels that were two to four inches high. Just six per cent of the women surveyed said they didn't wear heeled shoes on the job.

Though Gora herself doesn't mind wearing heeled shoes—and heard the same from several



Brittany Gora found high heels have a direct link to many service-industry injuries.

of the women she interviewed—she'd like to see servers offered the choice to opt out of sky-high footwear.

And even if employers don't give their wait staff the go-ahead to go flat-footed, "I believe

there are alternatives that will make wearing heels safer."

Changes in flooring—like eliminating rubber matting that grabs at heels—and keeping kitchen floors spill-free would help servers avoid mishaps, Gora believes.

Gora, who reviewed 12 related studies on the topic of falls and workplace safety as part of her research, said she'd also like to see guidelines on heel height as well as recommendations in employee handbooks on appropriate types or brands of shoe to purchase, "if the hospitality industry wants to make it mandatory to wear heels."

Gora plans to pursue a career in fashion merchandising after graduation from the U of A, but hopes research will continue on the subject of footwear safety for servers.

"They tend to be overlooked in the workplace population. Servers don't have to wear hard hats or work with heavy machinery, so there is no larger concern for why they should have safety equipment, but there are risks." ■

## A positive balance between parents is key to good behaviour in toddlers

Jamie Hanlon

Wondering why your toddler is acting up? University of Alberta researcher Christina Rinaldi says it may be time to take a look at your parental style—and your partner's.

Rinaldi's study, which appears in *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, looked at how parents' child-rearing styles were related to their young children's behaviour. She says that although much of the research to date on parenting has looked only at the mother's role, the research she conducted with co-author Nina Howe of Concordia University (Montreal) showed a correlation between the father's parental style and the child's behaviour, either positive or negative. Their findings suggest parental styles that are either too strict or too lenient are likely to be associated with negative types of behaviour in children, whereas a more even-handed

approach is more likely to result in positive conduct.

Participants in the study were asked to identify their parental style and that of their partner, and to identify and measure their children's behaviour. The results indicated that when the mothers were more permissive in their parental style or the fathers more authoritarian, the toddlers tended to demonstrate negatively focused habits such as temper tantrums, arguing with adults or not sharing toys. On the other hand, for parents who reported that the father displayed a firm but fair and friendly style, children tended to display a more positive demeanour.

"Being more authoritative is a positive style. You have structure, but you also have limits for kids so they know what to expect. It's very clear in its communication, but at the same time has expectations and doesn't let everything go," said Rinaldi. "Toddlers are starting to test their environment. It's hard for

them to communicate exactly what they want. And so it really tests the limits of what parents can do and their own abilities."

Rinaldi says it is important to remember that parental styles are fluid, and that factors such as mood and fatigue—on the part of both parent and child—can play a role in shifting a parent's approach. The key, she says, lies with the parent being able to determine boundaries and limits to put on a child, based on the child and environment factors. Within the family dynamic, she says that parents may adopt different approaches among siblings as well, especially if one child is more even-tempered than another. It's less of the Smothers Brothers' "mom always liked you best" situation and more like having to navigate the perilous waters of each child's needs.

"People look back on their own childhood and they say, 'Well, our parents didn't treat us the same,' but why would they treat you exactly the



U of A researcher Christina Rinaldi.

same? You are different human beings," said Rinaldi. "Some children require a little bit more attention than others. And some parents are baffled as to why one strategy works with one and not with the others, so it is a demand on the parent to figure it out."

Rinaldi says there are many ways to be an effective parent, but what her research underscores is that parents who share the authoritative traits—by providing structure in a loving, caring, very clear way to their young children—are the ones to emulate. She says kids need structure and routines to help them, especially in their early years. Toddlers enjoy knowing what to expect and what is expected of them, including having

duties like helping to set the table or tasks such as brushing their teeth before bed. Having reasonable expectations that are age-appropriate is another consideration, she says, noting that it might be unfair to expect young children not to be moody when they are hungry or up past their bedtime. But when it comes time to be the firm, loving parent, it comes down to saying what you mean and meaning what you say.

"Follow through consistently," she said. "But do that in a warm and caring way, without necessarily being overly domineering and doing it in a coercive and manipulative way, because that actually does come through." ■

## Reinforcing ties with Taiwan

Michael Brown

On May 4, Provost Carl Amrhein signed a letter of intent with the government of Taiwan designating the University of Alberta as a Taiwan Academy contact centre to strengthen bilateral exchange in the areas of Taiwanese and Chinese culture, education and academia.

"We've been hard pressed to keep up with the demand for Chinese language and culture classes, so this is really important to us," said Amrhein, who credits a Grade 7 class in which he turned in a paper on Taiwan as the class that pushed him to pursue a career in geography. "We look forward to further and deeper collaboration with industry and universities in Taiwan."

Michael Tseng, director general of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Vancouver, was on hand for the signing. He said it is a priority of the Taiwanese government to find prestigious universities as counterpoints to those in Taiwan, and he was especially pleased that the U of A agreed to be the first signatory in western Canada.

"We believe through this platform we will better enable an exchange of information and bridge cultural and academic exchanges," said Tseng. "We hope through this mechanism we can have a further deeper cooperation in the future."

Leslie Cormack, dean of the Faculty of Arts, said the Taiwanese academy at the U of A is particularly strong, led by professors like East Asian studies chair Ryan



Carl Amrhein, U of A provost, and Michael Tseng, director general of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, formalize an agreement to strengthen co-operation between the University of Alberta and Taiwan.

Dunch, Taiwanese literature professor Lin Jenn-Shann in the Department of East Asian Studies, and Chinese linguistics professor John Newman, all of whom have an interest in Taiwanese language and culture. The U of A is also home many collections, like the Mactaggart Art Collection, which is composed of more than 1,000 rare works from ancient and modern East Asia donated to the university in 2005 by Sandy and Cécile Mactaggart, that allows researchers from all over the world to shine a light on East Asian history.

"We also have a number of functional exchange programs with Taiwan schools as well as 77 graduate and undergraduate Taiwanese students studying here," said Cormack. "We also have a long-standing interest in Taiwanese literature and culture, so it seems to me like a natural connection." ■

Michael Brown

## Ann Dawrant



www.anndawrant.com

RE/MAX Real Estate Centre

- 26 years as successful residential realtor specializing in west and southwest Edmonton
- Consistently in top 5% of Edmonton realtors
- Member of prestigious RE/MAX Platinum club
- Born and raised in Buenos Aires and has lived in Edmonton since 1967
- Bilingual in English and Spanish

"Call me to experience the dedicated, knowledgeable, and caring service that I provide to all my clients."

anndawrant@hotmail.com • (780) 438.7000 or (780) 940.6485

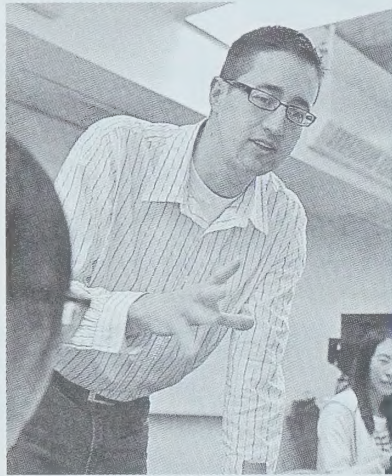


# Teaching award recipient slays the fear in becoming a better writer

Geoff McMaster

Jonathan Gordon attributes the shift in his pedagogy to a workshop he attended a few years ago on “contract teaching.” What that means is that no grades in a course are assigned during the term—only constructive feedback and encouragement. Under the terms of the contract, the students are responsible for delivering a number of assignments and participating in mentoring sessions.

For writing instruction, says Gordon—a recipient of the 2012 William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in



Jonathan Gordon

Undergraduate Teaching who teaches Writing Studies 101 in the Department of English and Film Studies—the contract approach has proven overwhelmingly successful. It aims to move beyond the fear of failure, refusing to give voice to that scathing internal editor that can stifle creativity and clear thinking.

In other words, it fosters constructive critique rather than negative criticism.

“There is occasionally some concern from some students in the class about how they are doing, and how it will affect their GPA, but I think the benefits definitely outweigh the disadvantages,” he says.

One benefit is escaping “the trap of students trying to give the instructor what they think they want [rather than writing for an audience]. They end up scared of trying out new things for fear of getting a bad mark. Not grading takes some of that pressure off.”

First introduced in 2007, Writing Studies 101 is open to any student on campus to fulfil three required English credits. It has since become the most popular course on campus, with a waiting list of more than 1,000. The course partly includes what one might expect—the mechanics of writing, grammar, essay structure, and so on—but it also introduces students to the role writing plays in learning, discovering, thinking critically and connecting with an audience.

The class size is capped at 20, and students also participate in small mentoring sessions with the instructor, says Gordon,

where they have more opportunity to explore writing at a deeper level.

A single grade is finally assigned to each student after they submit a portfolio of writing at the end of term, by which time the vast majority report having successfully moved beyond their fears. Most respond in the affirmative to the following survey question: Do you know strategies for giving descriptive feedback about content, structure, ideas or rhetorical appeals in a piece of writing—that is, alternatives to feedback that focuses primarily on inadequacies or surface errors?

“These students are recognizing that the skills necessary in English and writing courses are beneficial in other facets of their academic lives and beyond,” says Gordon.

Gordon modestly attributes his teaching award to the success of Writing Studies 101 itself. But Betsy Sargent, interim director of the program, has a different take.

“Jon has played a truly remarkable role in helping to establish Writing Studies 101 as one of the most sought-after courses on campus,” she says. “He’s a perspicacious commenter on student writing, able to encourage students while simultaneously challenging them to do their best work. Over and over again, students emphasize his gift for respectful dialogue.”

“U of A students are perceptive, I think, in valuing an educator who does not seek the limelight, who doesn’t win them over with charismatic showmanship but instead by unrelenting, shrewd attention to their work.” ■

## Shining the spotlight on exceptional teaching talent

### Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

- Gordon J. Bell, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
- Melanie Lewis, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
- Todd Lowary, Faculty of Science
- Hassan Safouhi, Campus Saint-Jean

### William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

- Jonathan Gordon, Faculty of Arts
- Mathieu Martin-LeBlanc, Faculty of Arts

### Provost’s Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

- Eric M. Adams, Faculty of Law
- Eric Rivard, Faculty of Science

### Teaching Unit Award

- Faculty of Education, Instructors of EDEL 316—Communication Through Mathematics Education. Team Members: Allison Finch, Audrey Hodgson-Ward, Beverley Kula, Julie Long, Janelle McFeeters, Lynn McGarvey, Gladys Sterenberg and Carrie Watt

### Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching

- Mark Glover, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
- Linda Ogilvie, Faculty of Nursing
- Jonathan Veinot, Faculty of Science

The remaining award recipients will be featured in more detail in upcoming issues of Folio. ■

# Riding the new wave of feminism in the Canadian academy

Geoff McMaster

Patricia Clements recalls embarking on her journey as the arts faculty’s first female dean with “a high heart” and determination to affect change. Near the top of her priority list, in the spirit of the age, was more balanced gender equity among her faculty.

But 1989 was a disheartening year to be a woman of feminist persuasion at the U of A. The English department came under attack for hiring five female professors, with the hiring committee accused of ignoring merit in favour of equity. It was, says Clements, “sudden, bitter, sexist, polarizing and utterly unprecedented.” At the end of the year, casting a pall over Canadian sexual politics in general, was the shocking massacre of 14 women at Montreal’s École Polytechnique.

Clements’s battle with a contingent of faculty known as the Merit Only Group—and with the now defunct right-wing magazine, *Alberta Report*—was long and painful. But there were also sweet moments of vindication. In 1992, the arts faculty under Clements was able to resolve the issue of equity hiring, and a year later a progressive new hiring plan, *Opening Doors: A Plan for Employment Equity at the University of Alberta*, was approved by the General Faculties Council and the Board of Governors. It soon became the university’s new golden rule for the next 20 years.

“It was a marvellous and decisive moment, and remembering it makes me want to uncork a good bottle of champagne,” recalls Clements, who during her 10-year deanship oversaw the appointment

of 171 new professors, 91 of whom were women, in the Faculty of Arts.

“Few of our colleagues today would argue against diversity in hiring or in our programs and curricula—diversity, after all, is measurable and publicly representable—and yet we make surprisingly little headway.”

Not Drowning But Waving

Two decades later, a collection of 22 essays dedicated to Clements as trailblazer looks at the plight of women in today’s academy. *Not Drowning But Waving: Women, Feminism and the Liberal Arts*, published by University of Alberta Press, examines such topics as the relationship of the liberal arts to the larger university, the costs and rewards for women in administration, the corporatization of university campuses, balancing personal life with professional aspirations, and the intergenerational and transnational tensions within feminist communities.

As the editors—Jo-Ann Wallace and Heather Zwicker of the U of A’s Department of English and Film Studies, Susan Brown of the University of Guelph and Jeanne Perreault of the University of Calgary—point out in the introduction to the book, the issue of equity has largely slipped off the national agenda in recent years.

A 2010 survey, for example, by the Canadian Federation for the

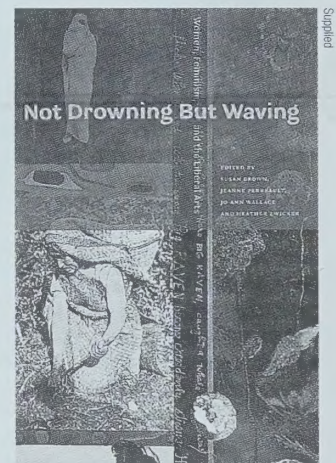
Humanities and Social Sciences shows that although the numbers of female full-time faculty are on the rise, with 42.9 per cent women at the assistant professor level, that number shrinks in the higher ranks, down to 20 per cent for full professors. Only 16.8 per cent of Canada Research Chairs are held by women, and in the first round of Canada Excellence Research Chairs—not a single woman.

Moreover, write the editors, “in addition to the ongoing underrepresentation of women as a whole in the senior professoriate, universities have largely abandoned efforts to ensure equitable treatment of racialized women, disabled women and Aboriginal women.”

“Few of our colleagues today would argue against diversity in hiring or in our programs and curricula—diversity, after all, is measurable and publicly representable—and yet we make surprisingly little headway.”

Part of this inertia, aside from a relative increase in the numbers of female faculty at the junior level, is rooted in a general complacency in the wider culture. To some extent, the popular media promote the myth that feminism has accomplished what it set out to and is no longer relevant, that sexism in the Western world, though not quite a slain beast, is on its last legs, gasping for air. As far as equity is concerned, say *Not Drowning’s* editors, there is an “it goes without saying” mentality at work in the public consciousness.

But as the U.S. Republican primaries made clear, fought largely over the bodies of women, not to mention tentative steps towards the resurrection of the abortion debate in the Canadian House of Commons, issues of crucial



importance to women remain volatile and there is always the danger of regression, of losing ground gained at great cost by the feminist movement. Without constant and undying vigilance on the part of both men and women, it never “goes without saying,” say the editors.

“While equity policies have been formally institutionalized, we still need to pay careful attention to the ways oppression and inequity persist and the extent to which we are complicit with their persistence,” write Brown, Perreault, Wallace and Zwicker. “We need to imagine for ourselves, and to demand from our senior administrators and boards and governments, the kind of university we desire for ourselves and our students.”

*Not Drowning But Waving*, in addition to a biographical essay by Clements on her days as dean and pieces by the editors themselves, includes contributions by U of A arts faculty researchers Tessa Elizabeth Jordan, Katherine Binhammer, Cecily Devereux, Julie Rak, Isobel Grundy, Lise Gotell and Phil Okeke-Ihejirika. ■

## EDMONTON'S ONLY CLAY COURT TENNIS CLUB



**GARNEAU**  
Tennis and Beach Volleyball Club

*Featuring...*

**7 CLAY TENNIS COURTS  
3 BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURTS**

**LOCKER ROOMS WITH SHOWERS,  
LEAGUES, LESSONS, INTERCLUB,  
SOCIAL EVENTS, BALL MACHINE**

**BEACH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE  
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN  
(ONLINE)**

**OPEN APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>  
OPEN HOUSE MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

GARNEAU-TENNIS.COM 780-431-2085



# New palliative care resource designed to help ease changes

Yolanda Poffenroth & Bryan Alary

An interactive toolkit created by a team from the University of Alberta helps palliative care patients and their care providers to deal with the physical, emotional and relationship changes that come with terminal and chronic illnesses.

The Changes Toolkit is designed to engage patients and care providers at a time when many feel isolated and overwhelmed. The print and online resource provides a foundation to start conversations and answer questions about health and life changes, goals of care, and living wills, and helps organize information like medical histories and appointments.

"There are activities throughout the toolkit designed to actively engage patients and help them make decisions while building on their own strengths," said Wendy Duggleby, lead researcher and Nursing Research Chair in Aging and Quality of Life at the U of A. By helping patients, families and caregivers understand end-of-life



U of A researcher Wendy Duggleby led the team that developed a new interactive resource for palliative care patients and their care providers.

changes, the toolkit helps them deal with those changes, which are significant, she said.

"The whole idea with supporting patients and caregivers throughout these life transitions is to ensure a better outcome for patients and their family."

Duggleby, a recognized leader in improving quality of life and

care for palliative care patients in Canada, announced the launch of an online version of the Changes Toolkit during National Nursing Week. The expanded reach means the resource will bring comfort to patients and families across the globe—at no cost.

The Changes Toolkit was developed after Duggleby researched

palliative care in rural communities. Because it's designed to be self-administered, the toolkit helps patients and families regardless of location.

"[The tool kit] helps patients understand they're not alone and that there's help available."

Wendy Duggleby

said David O'Brien, vice-president of seniors' health.

"Front-line caregivers have reviewed the tools and believe they will be valuable for patients and their families across the province," O'Brien said. "The toolkit will help Albertans to navigate the very emotional and difficult end-of-life journey in a positive way—that is a very good thing."

Duggleby said the toolkit has also been well received by patients and their families, who say they would recommend it to others.

"It helps patients understand they're not alone and that there's help available. It can be difficult to talk about end of life for patients and families, and that's where this toolkit helps. It can start conversations and answer tough questions. It brings peace of mind."

The Changes Toolkit was developed with a pan-Canadian multidisciplinary research team and collaborators, with funding support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Alberta Health and Wellness End of Life Strategic Initiatives. ■

## NSERC funding to help protein researchers CREATE experience abroad

Quinn Phillips

The Membrane Protein Disease Research Group in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry is boasting new funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council that will give its students an unprecedented learning experience.

The group received \$1.6 million in funding over six years from NSERC's Collaborative Research and Training Experience program, or CREATE, to develop collaboration with two institutes in Germany, Saarland University and University of Kaiserslautern. The money will pay graduate students' and post-doctoral fellows' salaries and travel expenses so they can spend three to six months in Germany at either institute.

"They'll go to Germany, we'll pay for them to live there and they'll carry out research on a collaborative project," said Joe Casey, a professor in the Department of Biochemistry who led the charge for funding. "They'll learn new techniques, a new philosophy of research, what it's like to be in a new environment; they'll learn the international aspects of research by actually being in a foreign environment carrying out research that's directly related to their thesis work and hopefully will lead to a paper."

"We hope it'll really broaden their minds, get them thinking big in terms of science and realizing that what they're doing is part of an international effort, not just something that's going on here in Edmonton."

It all started in 2007, when Casey first met numerous researchers from both Saarland University and the University of

Kaiserslautern. They started to seriously discuss collaboration in 2009.

"The Germans have been putting a lot of money into research," said Casey. "They think it's important for their researchers to reach out. They're very keen about collaborating with Canada because of our group."

Casey says the agreement came together last year when NSERC expanded its CREATE program to team up with a major funding agency in Germany.

Not only will this arrangement help expand students' minds and the way they look at problems, Casey says, but it's also exciting for the researchers involved.

"We're already thinking about similar kinds of problems, but we may have unique solutions or technologies," he said. "We have complementary strengths and weaknesses."

"We hope it'll really broaden their minds, get them thinking big in terms of science and realizing that what they're doing is part of an international effort, not just something that's going on here in Edmonton."

Joe Casey

The NSERC grant supports the graduate students and post-doctoral fellows of 10 faculty members who are a part of the Membrane Protein Disease Research Group. The annual meetings will alternate between Alberta and Germany. ■

## Study reveals the pleasure and pain of customers

Jamie Hanlon

A new paper by Kyle Murray, a marketing researcher with the Alberta School of Business, puts a spin on the expression "you can't please everyone."

Murray and co-authors Remi Trudel of Boston University and June Cotte from the University of Western Ontario found that when it comes to our basic consumer motivations, how we experience a good or bad service experience or how we react to a superior or inferior product depends on whether we're prone to seeking pleasure or avoiding pain. This translates into two groups who show very different levels of satisfaction for the same consumer experience.

The researchers studied people's reactions to two consumer experiences: tasting a cup of coffee and choosing a digital camera. In both studies, there was a quality product and one that had been altered to affect its quality. Test subjects were asked to rate their satisfaction with

the product's quality. The researchers discovered that respondents fell into two categories: promotion-focused (pleasure-seeking) or prevention-focused (pain-avoiding). "These two types of people respond very differently to having the same kind of service encounter or having the same kind of problem with a product," said Murray.

"People who are promotion-focused tend to get a lot more hurt when something goes wrong, but they're also a lot happier when something goes right," he said. "The prevention-focused people are less upset when something goes wrong—when they buy a product and it breaks or they have a bad service experience—but they're also less happy when something goes right."

Murray notes that although the prevention-focused response was far less extreme than the promotion-focused response, the pain-avoiding group appeared less able to enjoy a positive consumer experience. As a consequence, their controlled

reactions left them feeling less joy when something went right—a phenomenon the researchers labelled a conservative bias.

"That conservative bias changes the way they see the world," he said. "They're a little bit more constrained in all their responses, at least in the realm of satisfaction."

Prior research suggests that there is segmentation across both gender and age lines. Specifically, previous work indicates that women and older adults are slightly more chronically prevention-focused, whereas men and younger people tend to be more promotion-focused. Murray says that changing our consumer characteristics may not be an option, but being able to understand how the other side responds certainly is. For the customer service world, this means helping staff to understand both groups, and preparing them for the reality that when it comes to complaints, one style does not fit all.

"To some extent, they can tell front-line people that, as older



Kyle Murray has found why it's hard for businesses to please everyone.

people approach them, they're going to be more prevention-focused, they're not going to be as extreme either way," said Murray. "But when something has gone really wrong with that 21-year-old's game console, they're going to be a lot more upset and more likely to tell their friends."

"On the flip side, when they take it home and it works well and they really enjoy it, they're more excited and happy, and more likely to tell their friends about it."

The study was published in the March 2012 issue of the *International Journal of Research in Marketing*. ■



# news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the stories that recently appeared on the [ualberta.ca news](http://ualberta.ca/news) page. To read more, go to [www.news.ualberta.ca](http://www.news.ualberta.ca).

## New agreement set to foster northern collaboration

An agreement signed in Yellowknife April 25 will enrich post-secondary opportunities among Canada's leading research universities—including the University of Alberta—and three northern colleges.

Carl Amrhein, the U of A's provost and vice-president (academic), took part in a ceremonial signing on behalf of CALDO, a consortium of four of the country's top research universities: the U of A, University of Laval, Dalhousie University and University of Ottawa.

The five-year agreement, signed in the Great Hall of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, signifies the beginning of CALDO's partnership with Aurora College, Nunavut Arctic College and Yukon College, which serve students throughout the North.

Amrhein says the collaboration among all of the schools will benefit everyone involved, by allowing for an exchange of ideas, talents and discoveries among faculty and students, and by increasing student mobility.

"This agreement paves the way for greatly expanded research partnerships among the northern colleges and the more than 200 research centres and institutes within the CALDO consortium," said Amrhein.

Potential now exists for the universities to foster new collaborations with the Yukon Research Centre, Aurora Research Institute and Nunavut Arctic Institute, with a focus on northern projects.

The agreement also increases access for northern students who want to transfer their studies to degree programs at CALDO's member universities, and eases their transition to larger campuses. It also provides opportunity for students from member universities to head north, Amrhein noted.

The partnership also reaffirms the U of A's position as the leading university in northern research and studies in Canada, through such initiatives as the Canadian Circumpolar Institute.

"This is a good fit for Yukon College and will provide real benefits to our students," said Karen Barnes, president of the college. "The CALDO consortium universities do a great deal to ease the transition for international students coming to Canada. This expertise can now also help students from our remote northern communities who also encounter challenges when moving south to continue their education."

## There's always hope

On May 3, dentistry and dental hygiene students played host to approximately 20 Grade 6 and 7 Aboriginal students from Meskanahk Ka-Nipawit (Montana) School and Mother Earth's Children's Charter School.

Students set up stations in the Sim lab to demonstrate to the kids the different areas of dentistry and dental hygiene. Stations included waxing and molds, brushing and flossing, composite fillings, polishing and amalgam preps. Dentistry students who participated were Davis Fox, Linda Lan, Tasha Chrbet, Evgeniya Kazachenko and Courtney Doerksen. From Dental Hygiene were Brittany Logan, An Ton and Angela Park.

"One of the kids prepping an amalgam was a natural," said Tasha Chrbet, second-year dentistry student. "He was so focused and diligent with his movement it was like he had done this before."

The workshop was part of a five-day camp put on in partnership with the Hope Foundation. It is meant to expose kids who would not otherwise get the chance to visit a university setting and explore career opportunities. Chemistry, nursing, and medicine were also part of the day camp.

"Some of these kids never leave the reserve," says Victor Tang, teacher at Mother Earth School. "From this experience, we help them identify who they are and what they want to do."

"I had a great time helping out today," said Angela Park, dental hygiene grad student. "I am proud to say that I am part of a faculty that is so well connected to society, that gives back to its community."

## Helping doctors prevent occupational illness

Nicola Cherry and colleagues in the Department of Medicine are preparing to launch a new online class for community-based physicians to learn about identifying and treating occupational injuries and diseases.

"Early on we did a needs assessment and about 93 per cent said they needed more information in the area and would like to be trained," said Cherry of physicians in Alberta who were polled at a seminar. "If you don't recognize that work might be causing the illness, you can't give [patients] good advice on how to manage the illness."

Cherry says there are about 100,000 Workers' Compensation Board claims each year in Alberta. Studies show that physicians don't always recognize that a disease or injury has occurred or been aggravated because of something that has happened at work, and do not always consider clearly the implications for return to work from any illness, work-related or not.

The Imperial Oil Foundation recently stepped up to give \$450,000 to Cherry's group, in the Division of Preventive Medicine, for the class.

"The prevention of work-related illnesses for our employees and contractors is key to our health and safety programs," said Susan Swan, president of the foundation. "A lot of workers are being seen in small towns where there aren't many occupational physicians, if any, so workers will be seen by family doctors and those family doctors are really not able to do the job well enough because they haven't had the training they need," said Cherry.

The class is set to launch Sept. 4. Physicians interested in the course are asked to contact Ruby Grewal at [RubyGrewal@med.ualberta.ca](mailto:RubyGrewal@med.ualberta.ca).

# 'Encyclopedia of sound' online in new exhibit

Michael Davies-Venn

An exhibition that once captured the imagination of people from all walks of life in Edmonton is now online for the world to experience.

In 2005, the University of Alberta's folkwaysAlive!, along with the art and design department and Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, staged *Seeing the World of Sound: Cover Art of Folkways Records* at the FAB Gallery. U of A art and design professor Joan Greer says the exhibition was well received in the community and prompted calls to bring it to other galleries.

A travelling exhibition did not happen, but now that *The Look of the Listen: The Cover Art of Folkways Records* has been launched online, its potential reach is far greater. The current virtual exhibition highlights more than 200 album covers and sounds from the



university's folkwaysAlive! collection, which was established after Moses Asch, founder of Folkways Records, donated his entire recordings to the university. Jonathan Kertzer, folk-

waysAlive! director, says the current exhibition extends the reach of the previous show. "We wanted a much wider audience to have access to this, to give people access no matter where they are. The original exhibit was well attended but maybe just a few thousand people saw it. Potentially anybody can see it now."

Kertzer says the exhibit is a subset of the more than 2,000 recordings released by Asch, including sounds from around the world.

Greer, who, along with Margaret Asch, was one of the curators of the original exhibition, says the show highlights some of the strongest artistic statements on the album covers. Categories include albums illustrating design statements, visual techniques and representations of place. "One of the notions that were really important for Folkways Records was giving voice to all people; we wanted to see how that translated into record cover art."

But Folkways Records did more than give voice through music to all people. Through a diverse range of albums from *The Wonderful World of Insects*

and *Sounds of North American Frogs* to readings of Langston Hughes' poetry, Asch's record company also created access to sound recordings from around the world. And each album Folkways Records produced over nearly four decades conveyed a message that the listener could understand even before playing the record.

"There was a huge amount of integrity and attention put into making sure that the art and design of the covers worked well and complemented the recording inside. It was very important," Greer says. "Moe Asch wanted to establish an identity for Folkways and for the visual image to say something about the record within. Collectively the message that the albums conveyed is a really powerful artistic identification that's diverse."

Kertzer says album covers are important because they give listeners a more enriching experience, and that the exhibition reconnects people and reminds them of what was special about album covers. "Album covers allow people to learn about the meaning of the music, the lyrics. With a lot of international music, if you don't understand the background to it, it's hard to appreciate what you're hearing. It's really nice to have the stories behind the music."

Asch's grand vision in establishing Folkways Records now means that the U of A is home to an extensive collection of music and sound recordings from Siberia to Africa and beyond. "Moe Asch wanted Folkways to be an encyclopedia of sound, so the collection represents everything, especially in his time," Kertzer says. "He worked with some really great researchers. He enabled those researchers to have a place to publish their work. When the label really started going it was one of the first to feature a lot of international music, a lot of traditional music of the people."

Kertzer says the exhibition represents a special relationship between the U of A and an arm of one of the world's premier institutions. "This was a collaborative exhibit with curators at the Smithsonian Folkways Recordings," he says. "Through the Smithsonian website, people can download the album covers, look at the album liner notes and listen to 30-second clips. There's no other academic institution working with Smithsonian Folkways the way that we are."

Aresh Sonneborn, associate director of Smithsonian Folkways, which holds the intellectual rights to Moses Asch's estate, says Asch's donation to the university was unique. "It's the only time Moe ever gave a set of records to anybody," Sonneborn says. "It's an extraordinary scope. It's the human encyclopedia of all that human ears might hear." ■

# classified ads

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RENT

LIVE IN THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSITY. Executive 2 bedroom plus den, over 1,400 sq. ft. condo. Beautifully design with top of the line style. Underground parking. 11111-82 Ave. \$2,400/month. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp. Call Michael Jenner and Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email [jennfra@interbaun.com](mailto:jennfra@interbaun.com).

TURNKEY FURNISHED SUITE. Stunning 1 plus den (second bedroom) 1.5 bath, Turnkey furnished suite with underground parking. Steps from the university. 11011-86 Ave. \$1,600/month. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp. Call Michael Jenner and Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email [jennfra@interbaun.com](mailto:jennfra@interbaun.com).

EXECUTIVE SUITE. Turnkey furnished 1 bedroom with underground parking across from University Campus and LRT. Large executive suite with everything you need! Short term rental available until December, long term negotiable. 11027-87 Ave. \$1,500/month. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp. Call Michael Jenner and Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email [jennfra@interbaun.com](mailto:jennfra@interbaun.com).

RAVINE LIVING. Beautiful large turnkey furnished 1 bedroom suite. Close to Ravines off 142st street. All utilities, cable, Internet included with cleaning service too. Call Today. \$1,600/month. 143 &

99 Ave. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp. Call Michael Jenner and Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email [jennfra@interbaun.com](mailto:jennfra@interbaun.com).

WESTERN RELOCATION SERVICES LTD. Is looking on behalf of a client for a 3 bedroom plus home for a long term lease, in Grandview and Windsor Park area Edmonton. Please call Michael Jenner or Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 if you are interested in leasing your home.

MODERN CONDO IN GARNEAU. Superbly renovated condo, walking distance to the university. Claridge House, brick building, features swimming pool, hot tub. 1,362 sq. ft., 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 2nd floor, elevator to secure heated parking stall. Large master with en suite, extra storage off balcony, and in renovated closets. Gorgeous kitchen with new appliances, new cabinets, granite countertops throughout. A/C, washer, dryer, freezer. Unique barn wood grain commercial flooring, modern rugs. No pets, no smoking all utilities included. June 1st occupancy. \$1,800/month. Heather 403-379-2101 or [jaques@netago.ca](mailto:jaques@netago.ca).

WALK TO CAMPUS AND HOSPITALS. Furnished, spacious, Belgravia bungalow. New, custom design, energy efficient, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, home office, double detached garage. Steps to the LRT, schools, parks. No smoking, no pets.

Rent and possession negotiable. Available July 1. \$3,200/month. One year lease. 780-433-9628 or [dlkeer@gmail.com](mailto:dlkeer@gmail.com).

BELGRAVIA. August 1st occupancy. 3 bedroom house in south Belgravia. \$2,550/month. 11833-71A Ave. 780-886-6005.

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SALE

PROPERITES ON WHYTE. Stunning loft penthouse. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,120 sq. ft. city skyline view hardwood, granite, stainless steel, 2 titled parking stalls. \$785,000. Contact Carol Deschamps, Re/Max Real Estate. 780-907-5453

OKANAGAN CONDO. Top floor, corner unit, 180 degree lake/mountain view, one bedroom, twenty minutes Kelowna. Golf, tennis, pools, beach, spa, marina, fine dining on site. \$119,900 MLS #10043862 or email [susan.jacobs@ualberta.ca](mailto:susan.jacobs@ualberta.ca)

## SERVICES

BUYING, SELLING, LEASING, CALL ME FIRST. Connie Kennedy 780-482-6766, 780-940-0414. Pioneer Condominium Specialist. [www.conniekennedy.com](http://www.conniekennedy.com). RE/MAX Real Estate.

DELUXE SERVICED & VIRTUAL OFFICES. Now available at the Ritchie Mill on Saskatchewan Drive. Access to lounge/meeting areas. Excellent for consultants. Contact Heather at (780) 437-0799.



# Undergrad walks the icy edge of innovation

Tarwinder Rai

A fourth-year U of A engineering student's work on an undergraduate research project has led to a protocol that could improve understanding of how ice forms on rivers and streams.

Working with civil engineering professor Mark Loewen, Nicholas Landry was able to successfully illustrate the shape and size of frazil ice. Commonly visible in early fall, frazil ice is the first stage in river ice formation. As temperatures drop below freezing, a mix of ice crystals and liquids produce a slushy appearance or "frazil ice" on streams or rivers in the turbulent flow.

Because it grows quickly and forms below the surface water, frazil ice is difficult to detect, and as a result, large accumulations can cause problems for facilities that require fresh water continuously by clogging the openings.

"If we are able to use Nicholas's technique to determine the size of frazil ice

particles in rivers, we would be able to use this information to improve models of river ice processes, particularly river freeze-up," says Loewen. "Measuring frazil ice particle sizes in different rivers may also increase our understanding of what factors influence or determine the size of the particles."

For the project, Landry cut frazil ice samples into very thin sections and placed them under direct cross-polarized light. As the light passed through each frazil ice crystal, it refracted in a different orientation. The varying crystal colours made it possible to detect each frazil ice crystal's boundary. He was then able to develop an algorithm that successfully identified crystal boundaries in 90 per cent of cases.

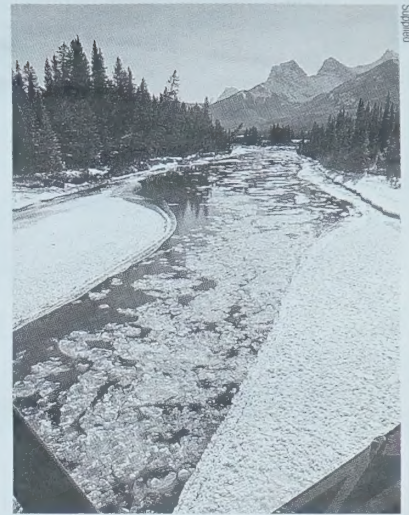
"This project was about furthering the field of research to better model freeze-up in the winter," says Landry. "Frazil ice crystallography was a cool project because I was able to combine civil engineering with image photography and computer science. Little is known about frazil ice properties.

"My research was really focused on developing a protocol that could help automate the characterization of these frazil ice properties. Later, my methods could be used to draw comparisons between frazil ice that is formed in various settings."

The frazil ice core samples were collected from the North Saskatchewan River in January 2011 and were compared with samples taken in March 2011. Once those crystal sizes were determined, Landry compared them with frazil ice samples produced in the U of A laboratory.

"Using MATLAB [a technical computing language], I was able to identify the crystal boundaries and compute the crystal sizes by marking points with high light intensity gradients, which corresponded to changes in crystal colours," he explained. "I learned a lot about how river ice develops, and about the science of photography and photo analysis."

Landry's research opportunity was part of the Dean's Research Award program in the engineering faculty, which allows



Frazil ice flows down the Bow River near Canmore, Alberta. Frazil ice is the first stage in river ice formation.

undergraduate students to pursue practical research experience and gain in-depth understanding of what they learn in the classroom. ■

# Medical student's NASA mission a lifetime of dreaming in the making

Raquel Maurier

Shawna Pandya has always had two passions: space and medicine.

When she found out the Canadian Space Agency chose her as one of five Canadian medical students or residents to take part in an aerospace medicine program at NASA this spring, she says she truly "was over the moon." During her recent stay at NASA, the fourth-year University of Alberta medical student learned about every aspect of flight medicine, from changes in the cardiovascular system to nutrition to microbiology.

Pandya has had ambitions of heading to NASA since she was 12 years old.

"When I was in Grade 7, I wanted to be the director of NASA until I realized I wasn't American. In grades 8 and 9, I wanted to be an astronaut until I realized the job prospects weren't so great, so I decided to be a neurosurgeon instead."



UAlberta medical student Shawna Pandya recently visited NASA to learn about aerospace medicine.

Pandya left for NASA's Johnson Space Centre on April 1 and returned in late April. While in Houston, she created a medical workstation for the NASA Habitat Demonstration Unit. She also talked with NASA researchers working on a project

examining inter-cranial pressure in zero-gravity situations, met three Canadian astronauts, saw mock-ups of the shuttle and the International Space Station, and saw lunar rovers.

"It was exciting, an incredible opportunity I have always dreamed of," she said. "It was the perfect way to finish medical school."

When Pandya applied for the aerospace medicine course at NASA, she had to fill out a 16-page application form and send in her references, transcripts and applicable space-related interests.

Her list was impressive. She had delayed medical school so she could take a master's degree at the International Space University. She did an internship at the European Astronaut Centre where she developed a quick-reference guide to determine human hazards aboard a transport vehicle heading to the International Space Station. After her first year of medical school at the U of A,

"In grades 8 and 9, I wanted to be an astronaut until I realized the job prospects weren't so great, so I decided to be a neurosurgeon instead."

Shawna Pandya

she decided to conduct research on the NeuroArm project at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary, which is based on the successful Canadarm technology used in space shuttle missions. She also founded the U of A's space medicine club, which later evolved into the extreme medicine club.

"I have always loved space," said Pandya. "It would be amazing to be on a manned mission one day." ■

# talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and at [www.news.ualberta.ca/events](http://www.news.ualberta.ca/events). A more comprehensive list of events is available online at [www.events.ualberta.ca](http://www.events.ualberta.ca). Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

## UNTIL JULY 14

**China's Imperial Modern: The Painter's Craft.** Do not miss this exciting new exhibition from the U of A Museums highlighting objects and artworks from the Mactaggart Art Collection. Through consideration of ink paintings, wood-block printed books, sketchbooks, and artist's tools such as inkstones and inksticks, The Painter's Craft asks how modern ways of making pictures—from mechanical copying to creative appropriation—emerged from the ink painter's studio and contributed to the crafting of everyday life in China during the imperial era. Telus Centre.

## MAY 17-26

**Studio Theatre presents Medea.** From Greek mythology to modern dramatic retelling, the tragedy of Jason and Medea still stands as a powerful cautionary tale of what madness can ensue when love and loyalty are betrayed. 7:30 p.m. Timms Centre for the Arts.

## MAY 16

**Educated Gardener – Intro to Permaculture Gardens.** Come learn about green, sustainable approaches to gardening from masters in the fields. Walk away with the knowledge to further your own garden—be it on a balcony or on a farm. 6–9 p.m. Jasper Place High School.

## MAY 17

**A Feminist Phenomenological Understanding of Equity and Invisibility.** This talk, subtitled The experiences of queer women and primary care providers, will be given by the Faculty of Nursing PhD student Lisa Goldberg. Noon–1 p.m. ECHA 5-001.

## MAY 17 & 18

**The Coming Out Monologues: Performance & Colloquium.** Inspired by Eve Ensler's groundbreaking work, The Coming Out Monologues: Performance & Colloquium is a theatrical performance about the experiences of coming out as a sexual minority person, followed by speakers and a discussion. This interprofessional initiative is jointly sponsored

by the faculties of drama, education and nursing, the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, and Human Resource Services. Its purpose is to raise awareness about the unique health, safety, and social needs of sexual-minority persons on campus and beyond. 7:30–9:30 p.m. 4-104 Education North.

## MAY 18

**Communications and Technology Research Symposium.** Communications and Technology graduate students will present their research. Keith Hampton of Rutgers University will present at 2:30 p.m. on "Keeping It Real? The Good, the Bad, and the Data on How New Media Are Affecting Our Relationships." 1–4:30 p.m. Enterprise Square.

## MAY 21

**Victoria Day.** University closed.

## MAY 24 & 25

**LEARN Program 2012 second annual workshop.** As part of the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology's 50th anniversary, the LEARN

Network is hosting this workshop on topics such as land values and use, agri-environmental programs, ecosystem services: carbon, water and biodiversity, and BMPs and adoption. Keynote speakers Michael Burton from the University of Western Australia and Carola Grebitus from Bonn University will give a talk entitled Environmental Concerns: Drivers of Food Choice. Aurora Room, Lister Conference Centre.

**Consumer and Market Demand Agricultural Policy Research Network Workshop.** As part of the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology's 50th anniversary, the theme for this workshop is Consumer Demand for Food: Models, Issues and Conundrums. Lister Centre.

## MAY 25

**Jeffrey Simpson – National Affairs Columnist, The Globe & Mail.** As part of the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology's 50th anniversary, Simpson will speak on Contemporary Opportunities and Challenges in the Development of Natural

Resources in Alberta. 4:30–5:45 p.m. Telus Centre.

## MAY 26

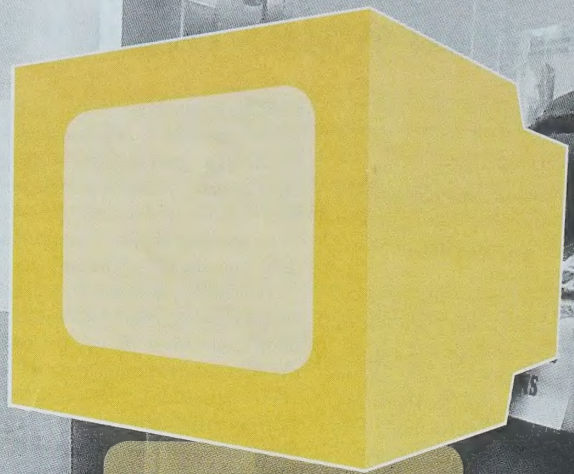
**Department of Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology, 50th Anniversary Celebration.** Banquet and dance at the Old Timers' Cabin. Visit [www.rees.ualberta.ca/50YearsRees.aspx](http://www.rees.ualberta.ca/50YearsRees.aspx) for the full lineup of speakers and for registration details.

**Alumni Association's Memorial Service.** This event honours those of our alumni and student family who passed away in 2011. University chaplains conduct an interfaith service featuring the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus. 2–4 p.m. Pre-register by calling 780-492-6530 or 780-492-0866.

## MAY 28

**Centennial Lectures.** Why Do Hearts Fail? will be delivered by Justine Ezekowitz, professor in the Department of Medicine, and Howard Young, professor in the Department of Biochemistry. 5–7 p.m. Allard Family Lecture Theatre, Katz Group Centre for Pharmacy and Health Research.





**2,890 lbs**  
ELECTRONICS



**2,648 lbs**  
CLOTHING



**912 lbs**  
FOOD AND TOILETRIES



**645 lbs**  
EMPTY PERSONAL AND  
BEAUTY CONTAINERS

# A MOVE FOR LESS IMPACT



As thousands of students moved out of residences in April, they participated in the inaugural Eco Move Out, hosted by Residence Services, Facilities and Operations and the Office of Sustainability. Residents were asked to help divert waste from the landfill by donating non-traditional items for reuse or recycling. The materials collected April 16 to May 2 weighed more than three tonnes!

*the*  
**BackPage**